

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for assessing a cancerous state of a mammal-derived pancreatic specimen, which comprises:

(1) ~~a first step of~~ measuring a methylation frequency of Fibrillin2 gene contained in a mammal-derived pancreatic specimen or an index value having the correlation therewith, and

(2) ~~a second step of~~ determining a cancerous state of the specimen based on a difference obtained by comparing the measured methylation frequency or the index value having the correlation therewith, with a control.

2. (currently amended): The assessing method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~mammal-derived specimen~~ is cells.

3. (currently amended): The assessing method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~mammal-derived specimen~~ is a tissue.

4. (currently amended): A method for assessing a cancerous state of a mammal-derived pancreatic specimen, which comprises:

(1) ~~a first step of~~ measuring a methylation frequency of Fibrillin2 gene contained in the mammal-derived pancreatic specimen, and

(2) ~~a second step~~ of determining a cancerous state of the specimen based on a difference obtained by comparing the measured methylation frequency with a control.

5. (currently amended): The assessing method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~mammal-derived~~ specimen is cells, and the cancerous state of the specimen is a malignancy of ~~mammal-derived~~ the cells.

6. (currently amended): The assessing method according to claim 4, wherein the ~~mammal-derived~~ specimen is cells, and the cancerous state of the specimen is a malignancy of a ~~mammal-derived~~ the cell.

7. (currently amended): The assessing method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~mammal-derived~~ specimen is a tissue, and the cancerous state of the specimen is an amount of cancer cells existing in a ~~mammal-derived~~ the tissue.

8. (currently amended): The assessing method according to claim 4, wherein the ~~mammal-derived~~ specimen is a tissue, and the cancerous state of the specimen is an amount of cancer cells existing in a ~~mammal-derived~~ the tissue.

9. (original): The assessing method according to claim 8, wherein the tissue is a pancreatic tissue, and the cancer is pancreatic cancer.

10. (original): The assessing method according to claim 1 or 4, wherein the methylation frequency of a gene is a methylation frequency of cytosine in one or more nucleotide sequence(s) represented by 5'-CG-3' present in a nucleotide sequence of a promoter region, an untranslated region or a translated region of the gene.

11. (currently amended): The assessing method according to claim ~~1~~10, wherein the tissue is a pancreatic tissue, and the cancer is pancreatic cancer.

12. (original): The assessing method according to claim 1 or 4, wherein the methylation frequency of a gene is a methylation frequency of cytosine in one or more nucleotide sequence(s) represented by 5'-CG-3' present in a nucleotide sequence of a promoter region in the gene.

13. (original): The assessing method according to claim 1 or 4, wherein the methylation frequency of a gene is a methylation frequency of cytosine in one or more nucleotide sequence(s) represented by 5'-CG-3' present in a nucleotide sequence of an untranslated region or a translated region of the gene.

14. (original): The assessing method according to claim 1, wherein the methylation frequency of a gene is a methylation frequency of cytosine in one or more nucleotide sequence(s) represented by 5'-CG-3' present in the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID No: 1.

15. (currently amended): The assessing method according to claim ~~1~~14, wherein the tissue is a pancreatic tissue, and the cancer is pancreatic cancer.

16. (currently amended): A method for assessing a cancerous state of a mammal-derived pancreatic specimen, which comprises:

- (1) ~~a first step of~~ measuring an index value having the correlation with a methylation frequency of Fibrillin2 gene contained in the mammal-derived pancreatic specimen, and
- (2) ~~a second step of~~ determining a cancerous state of the specimen based on a difference obtained by comparing the index value having the correlation with the measured methylation frequency with a control.

17. (original): The assessing method according to claim 16, wherein the index value having the correlation with a methylation frequency of Fibrillin2 gene is an amount of an expression product of the Fibrillin2 gene.

18. (original): The assessing method according to claim 17, wherein the amount of an expression product of Fibrillin2 gene is an amount of a transcription product of the gene.

19. (original): The assessing method according to claim 17, wherein the amount of an expression product of Fibrillin2 gene is an amount of a translation product of the gene.

20. (withdrawn): A method for searching a substance having the ability of promoting the expression of Fibrillin2 gene, which comprises:

- (1) a first step of bringing a test substance into contact with a cancer cell,

(2) a second step of measuring an amount of an expression product of Fibrillin2 gene contained in the cancer cell after the first step (1), and

(3) a third step of determining the ability of the test substance to promote the expression of Fibrillin2 gene possessed by, based on a difference obtained by comparing the measured amount of an expression product with a control.

21. (withdrawn): The searching method according to claim 20, wherein the cancer cell is pancreatic cancer cell.

22. (withdrawn): An anti-cancer agent, which comprises a substance having the ability found by the searching method of claim 20 as an active ingredient, wherein the active ingredient is formulated into a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

23. (withdrawn): an anti-cancer agent, which comprises a nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence of Fibrillin2 as an active ingredient, wherein the active ingredient is formulated into a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

24. (withdrawn): Use of methylated Fibrillin2 gene as a cancer marker.

25. (withdrawn): The use according to claim 24, wherein the cancer marker is a pancreatic cancer marker.

26. (withdrawn): A method for inhibiting canceration, which comprises a step of administering a substance which reduces a methylation frequency of Fibrillin2 gene, to cells in a body of a mammal which can be diagnosed as a cancer.

27. (withdrawn): The canceration inhibiting method according to claim 26, wherein the cancer is pancreatic cancer.